



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

Ambassador Lodge is urgently trying to arrange a meeting with Premier Ky, who has been out of Saigon during the day. The purpose here is to get a late reading on Ky's plans, and if all goes well, to discuss the possibility of a meeting between Ky and General Thi. Lodge will offer to serve as mediator between the two.

Thi said yesterday that such a meeting would be fruitless, but US officials on the scene say that he may be receptive to further overtures.

At Da Nang, fighting continued into the evening following the taking of the Tan Ninh pagoda this morning. There are still no indications what else the struggle forces may do to retaliate against this action.

Saigon is generally quiet tonight, Vietnam time.

2. Ecuador

Former president Velasco is expected to arrive in Guayaquil Tuesday morning and, naturally, to make a speech in the plaza.

His followers appear to have had less success in drumming up enthusiasm for their chief this time than upon previous returns to the country, and the crowd will probably be smaller than usual. The enthusiasm his followers create, however, is no measure of that which will be generated by the magnetic presence of the old master himself.

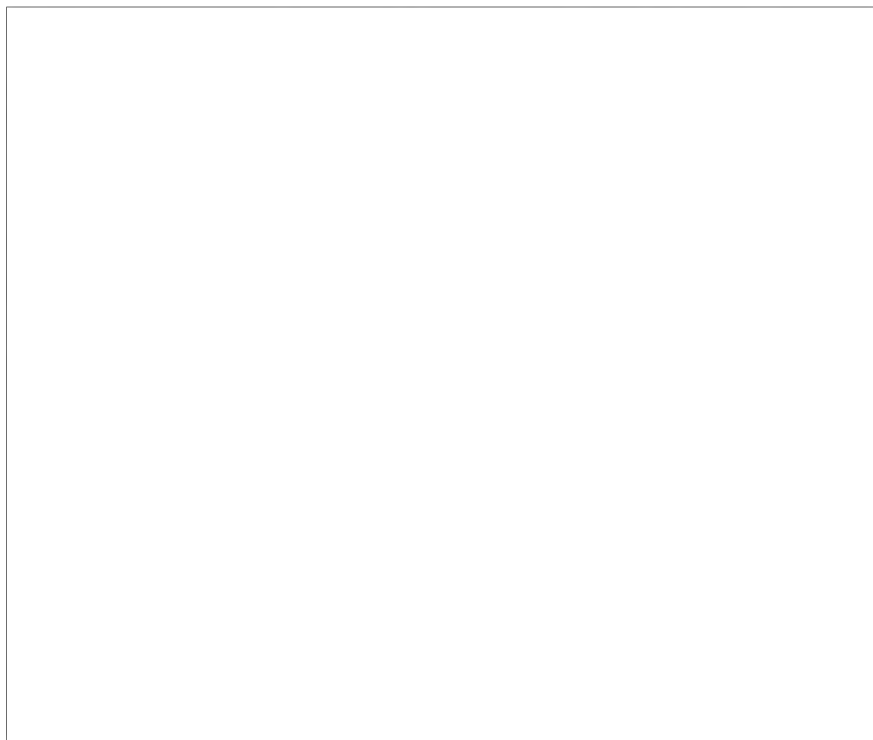
Widespread antigovernment strikes are adding to the nationwide unrest.

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3. Zambia

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4. Rhodesia

The "exploratory" UK-Rhodesian talks in London, kept under extremely close wraps by Wilson's order, ended yesterday. A terse communiqué will be issued this afternoon. A British team will go to Salisbury next weekend for a second round.

An official of the Commonwealth Relations Office told our embassy that the talks dealt with how Rhodesia might be returned to constitutional rule--since Britain absolutely will not negotiate with an illegal regime. The question of how and with whom negotiations might take place, and the general shape of a solution, were also discussed. No agreement was reached, or expected, on any of these points.

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5. Guatemala

The government appears to be stepping up antiguerrilla action in the wake of Tuesday's ambush of an army patrol in which 14 soldiers were killed.

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6. Dominican Republic

Press reports of an attempted assassination of Balaguer yesterday appear overdrawn.

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